



Patient Information Sheet: Non-systemic corticosteroids (Budesonide) for IBD

Common brand names: Entocort

Entocort (an ileal release Budesonide) is different than Cortiment (a colonic release multi matrix Budesonide). If you are looking for information about Cortiment, please see the associated patient information sheet.

What is Budesonide?

Budesonide is a steroid medication, similar to Prednisone, but with fewer side effects. Steroids occur naturally in the body and are needed in low amounts for healthy functioning. When taken as medication, a steroid can reduce the inflammation in the lining of the intestine. Entocort is an ileal release Budesonide.

When is Entocort used?

Entocort is used when other medications have not been effective in reducing the signs of symptoms of bowel inflammation. Because of the adverse effects of Prednisone, patients with active inflammatory bowel disease may also use Entocort because it is almost as active as Prednisone, but there is a lower risk of side effects.

How is Entocort given?

The Entocort capsule is coated so that it dissolves in the small intestine, and because of this can be used to target inflammation of the last portion of the small intestine (terminal ileum) and the right side of the large bowel. It can also be put into an enema for active inflammatory bowel disease in the left side of the large bowel. Steroids are used for short periods of time in patients with bowel inflammation, and the dose is gradually tapered off over 3-4 months.

What are the potential side effects of Entocort?

Entocort likely has the same adverse effects as Prednisone*, but because 90% is broken down in the liver, the risk of these side effects is much less than with Prednisone.

* Side effects of Prednisone:

Steroids have many side effects. Some of these are: mood changes, facial puffiness, hair growth, increased pressure in the eyes (glaucoma), haziness of the lens of the eyes (cataracts), high blood pressure, high blood sugar (diabetes), abdominal pain due to ulcers in the stomach or duodenum, an increased risk of infections, danger of low blood pressure if the medication is abruptly stopped, osteoporosis, and bone pain due to reduced blood supply in the bones (avascular necrosis). You should be aware of and be informed of these adverse effects before starting or re-starting on Prednisone.



Allergy alert: Entocort contains peanut and soy. Do not take Entocort if you are allergic to peanut or soy products.